

Thursday, December 20, 2007.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

Gracious God, during this moment of personal reflection and prayer, we turn our thoughts and attention to You, Our Creator. We look to You for direction and assistance in our struggle to serve You and our constituents who depend upon our sound judgements, reasonable decisions and ethical choices. During the Christmas season, when Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Christ, we also celebrate a season of lights, goodwill towards all and a spirit of religious faith and hope. The spirit of the season fills our hearts and minds with love and peace. May the Christmas spirit be with us and guide us in the new year.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Message from the Governor — Veto.

A message from His Excellency the Governor returning with his objections thereto in writing the engrossed Bill authorizing a superannuation retirement allowance for Leo Senecal [see House, No. 4139] (for message, see House, No. 4439) was filed in the Office of the Clerk on Wednesday, December 19.

The message was read; and, under House Rule 12, it was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting.

Message from the Governor.

A message from His Excellency the Governor (under the provisions of Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution) recommending legislation relative to validating the actions taken at the May 4, 2005 annual town meeting held by the town of Phillipston (House, No. 4438) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Tuesday, December 18.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Appointment to a Task Force.

The Minority Leader of the House announced his appointment of Representative Humason of Westfield to the Statewide Electronic Health Records System Task Force established (under Chapter 30 of

Prayer.

Pledge of
allegiance.

North Adams,—
Leo
Senecal.

Phillipston,—
town
meeting.

Electronic
Health
Records
Task Force.

the Acts of 2007) to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services with respect to an electronic health records system for children in foster care, individuals and dependents enrolled in the MassHealth and SCHIP programs, and individuals and dependents enrolled in Commonwealth Care or Safety Net Care programs.

Guest of the House.

Pvt. 1st Class
John Adams.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) turned the gavel over to Mr. Brownsberger of Belmont who introduced United States Army Pvt. 1st Class John Adams, accompanied by his family and dear friends. Representative Brownsberger then presented Pvt. Adams with citations of the House commending him upon his return home after fifteen months of dedicated and courageous service in Iraq.

Resolutions.

Seekonk,—
football team.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Mr. D’Amico of Seekonk) congratulating the 2007 Seekonk High School football team on their South Coast Conference championship win;

Robert J.
Reardon.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Ross of Wrentham) honoring Robert J. Reardon on his superior service to the town of Wrentham;

George M.
Chapman, Jr.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Smizik of Brookline) congratulating the Reverend George M. Chapman, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement; and

Jim
Gomes.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Smizik of Brookline) congratulating Jim Gomes on the occasion of his retirement;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Paper from the Senate.

Lung
cancer,—
research
fund.

A petition of Susan C. Fargo, Kathi-Anne Reinstein, Steven A. Baddour, Paul J. Donato and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Lung Cancer Early Detection and Treatment Research Fund, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Revenue.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2454) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Revenue.

Reports of Committees.

Visiting
nurses,—
parking.

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the petition of John J. Binienda and others that visiting nurses be exempt from certain parking regulations in cities and towns. Under suspension of the rules, on motion

of Mr. Smizik of Brookline, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Transportation. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Ms. Coakley-Rivera of Springfield, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on House, No. 110, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to make an investigation and study of a certain House document prohibiting certain adults from entering playgrounds (House, No. 4441).

Playgrounds,—
prohibit
adults
entering.

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, for the committee on Public Health, on House, Nos. 2196, 2217, 2229 and 3801, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning food products and labeling (House, No. 4442).

Food
products,—
study.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of said orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, for the committee on Public Health, on a petition, a Bill establishing a bladder cancer screening program within the Department of Public Health (House, No. 2126).

Bladder
cancer,—
screening.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to nursing home transfers and discharges (House, No. 2141).

Nursing
home
residents.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a board of registration in midwifery (House, No. 2142).

Midwives,—
regulate.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to cancer screening for municipal employees (House, No. 2151).

Cancer
screening.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a transfusion related acute lung injury registry (House, No. 2183).

Transfusions,—
lung injuries.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the transporting of deceased persons (House, No. 2278).

Deceased,—
transportation.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, for the committee on Election Laws, on a petition, a Bill providing that the person elected city councillor from Ward Seven in the city of Malden assume said office upon certificate of the votes (House, No. 4414) [Local Approval Received].

Malden,—
Ward Seven
councillor.

By Mr. Pedone of Worcester, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill relative to the charter of the town of Braintree (House, No. 4398) [Local Approval Received].

Braintree,—
town
charter.

Tewksbury,—
land
conveyance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a parcel of land in the town of Tewksbury (House, No. 4399) [Local Approval Received].

Goshen,—
firearms
licensing
fund.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to authorize the establishment of a firearms licensing fund in the town of Goshen (House, No. 4400, changed in line 8 by striking out the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the word “shall”) [Local Approval Received].

Natick,—
retired
police.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Natick (House, No. 4401) [Local Approval Received].

Swansea,—
land
exchange.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4355, a Bill relative to an exchange of land in the town of Swansea (House, No. 4440) [Local Approval Received].

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Engrossed Bill.

Bill
enacted.

The engrossed Bill relative to investments of dental service corporations (see House, No. 1042) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

Third
reading
bill.

The Senate Bill relative to the Salem State College Assistance Corporation (Senate, No. 2242), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

House bills

Third
reading
bills.

Relative to the appointment of retired police officers in the city of Everett (House, No. 3982);

Relative to the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4101) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Relative to the South Essex Sewage District (House, No. 4258); and

Relative to the Greenfield Town Charter (House, No. 4331);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

Next
sitting.

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

At twenty-eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.